

I wish to state my objection to the 'broadcast flag' concept; I am a consumer, not affiliated with any content providers. It is my understanding that this flag will prevent me from manipulating digital content in the privacy of my own home. I have no intention of making copies and distributing them as the content industry seems to fear; however, I do like to make personal archive copies of shows that I like, just like video taping them, only I prefer to do it in the higher quality digital formats so I can edit out commercials, etc. Since these are for my own personal use, I believe I am well within the boundaries of fair use, and therefore am upset at the idea of the idea of losing this ability.

Another thing that disturbs me is this: that this whole thing is emblematic of the rift between content creators and consumers of late. It seems that creators regard consumers as either sheep (blandly consuming whatever content they are fed) or goats (maliciously altering content for the sole purpose of undermining and/or stealing it). I put it to you that the vast majority of consumers who wish to make changes to their digital content are not doing it to steal it; rather, to exercise the rights guaranteed them under Fair Use. Indeed, Fair Use seems to be increasingly the target, despite the fact that it (as in the case of VCRs spawning the home video market) has been a positive boon to the content creation industry.

As an aside, as someone who works in the technology field, I do not think it is one industry's place to place mandates on how another industry works. Asking digital equipment builders to incorporate this technology is one thing; demanding it be made law is quite another. We are at a critical point in the move to all-digital media delivery; the going so far has been slow, and things like the broadcast flag are only going to delay it further. If content producers want to see real progress in adoption of digital media delivery, they absolutely must stop trying to constrict and restrict it, as they are not only delaying everything but with each change making the move less and less attractive to the consumer.